Weekly Police Beat for the week ending January 12, 2018

Thieves Break Four Car Windows Overnight on W. Irving Street
County police report 7 car windows broken in Town of Chevy Chase

At about 7:30 this morning (Friday, January 12, 2018), Village police received a call for a broken car window on W. Irving Street between Connecticut Avenue and Magnolia Parkway. The resident there reported that they discovered the broken window when they went outside today, but they didn't hear or see anything during the night. Although the contents of the car were rummaged through, nothing was stolen.

Investigation revealed that a total of 4 cars on the same block suffered broken windows. Three of the windows were on the side of the car facing the sidewalk; one of the windows was on the street side of the vehicle. Nothing was stolen from 3 of the cars, and loose change was taken from one of the vehicles. None of the residents heard or saw anything overnight.

An owner of one of the cars with a broken window on W. Irving has a security camera system with outward-facing cameras. One of the cameras captured 2 male suspects wearing hoodies walking on the sidewalk and carrying a small light of some kind shortly before 2:00 a.m. One of the suspects stopped at the victim's car parked on the street, but a tree obscured most of the car and all of the suspect's actions, so we cannot determine what method the suspects used to break the windows.

While our officers were investigating the broken car windows in the Village, Montgomery County officers were simultaneously investigating similar events that occurred overnight in the Town of Chevy Chase. In all, the county reported 6 broken vehicle windows in the Town. Nothing was taken from the damaged cars in the Town, either.

This is a highly unusual event. It is extremely rare that a thief will break a window; they typically target unlocked cars. A thief may risk breaking a window if they see something potentially valuable inside a car (purse, briefcase; laptop bag), but that was not the case last night; there were no attractive items in sight. These random broken windows make no sense and are not a part of a known pattern.

The Village Police Department continues to strongly recommend that residents lock their cars every time they park. The data makes it clear that the vast majority of our thefts are directly linked to unlocked cars parked overnight.

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